

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A support member (64) adapted to join two parallel sides (122) of a bed frame, each of the sides (122) having at least one receptacle (82), said support member (64) comprising a substantially straight member (66) having ends (76) adapted to be snapped into said receptacles (82) wherein the receptacles are deformed as said ends (76) are snapped into said receptacles to join the ends of the support member (64) with the parallel sides (122) of a bed frame.
2. (previously presented) A support member (64) as defined in Claim 1 wherein said straight member (66) is a tubular metal member.
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (previously presented) A support member (64) as defined in Claim 1 wherein said straight member (66) includes at least one telescoping bracket (72) extending outward from at least one of said ends of said straight member (66) to affix said straight member (66) to at least one of the receptacles (82) of the frame.
6. (previously presented) A support member (64) as defined in Claim 5 wherein said at least one telescoping bracket (72) includes a bracket (48) inwardly sloping in the downward direction.
7. (currently amended) A bed frame or bed rails for underlying and supporting a box spring, said bed frame comprising a pair of side rails (122) spaced apart and parallel to each other, at least one receptacle (82) located on each of said pair of side rails (122), a cross member (64) affixed to each of said side rails (122) and extending transversely therebetween, said cross member (64) comprising a straight member (66) having opposed ends (76), end brackets (72) slidingly received in said opposed ends of said straight member (66), said end

brackets (72) configured to be snap fitted within said receptacles (82) by causing deformation of the receptacles (82) as said end brackets (72) are snap fitted to the receptacles (82).

8. (previously presented) A bed frame or bed rails for underlying and supporting a box spring as defined in claim 7 wherein said straight member (66) includes a releasable securing means to secure said end brackets (72) to said straight member (66) to fix said end brackets (72) in a desired position at a desired length of said cross member (64).

9. (previously presented) A bed frame or bed rails for underlying and supporting a box spring as defined in claim 7 wherein said side rails (122) each have a receptacle bracket (82) adapted to receive and interfit with said end brackets (72) to affix said cross member (64) to said side rails (122).

10. (previously presented) A bed frame or bed rails for underlying and supporting a box spring as defined in claim 9 wherein said end brackets (72) comprise male portions tapered inwardly in the downward direction and said receptacle brackets on said side rails are female portions (52) having an inwardly tapered opening to mate with said male portions.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A bed frame or bed rails for underlying and supporting a box spring as defined in claim 44 9 wherein said side rails (122) include rail brackets having openings configured to receive the end brackets (72) of said straight member (64).

Claims 13-18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A bed rail construction comprising side rails (122) and at least one cross member (18) having ends, rail connectors (82) affixed to each of said side rails (122) adapted to receive said ends of said at least one cross member (18), said rail connector (82) having a pair of flexible tabs (126) adapted to capture said ends of said cross member (18) when said ends are received in said rail connector (82).

20. (previously presented) A bed rail construction as defined in claim 19 wherein said ends of said at least one cross member (18) comprise lateral side surfaces formed in the configuration of upwardly shaped wedges.

21. (previously presented) A bed rail construction as defined in claim 20 wherein flexible tabs (126) are adapted to flex as said upwardly shaped wedges are received in said rail connectors (82) and said flexible tabs (126) have inwardly extending lips (128) adapted to capture said upwardly shaped wedges when said ends of said at least one cross member are received in said rail connectors (82).

22. (previously presented) A bed rail construction as defined in claim 19 wherein said side rails (122) have a horizontal surface having an opening (87) therein and wherein said rail connector (82) includes a similar shaped opening and further includes a flexible plug (85) adapted to be inserted through said opening (87) in said side rail connector (82) and said opening (87) in said side rail (122), said ends of said at least one cross member (18) having downwardly facing tabs (144) that interfit into said plug (85) when said ends of said at least one cross member (18) is received in said rail connectors (82).

23. (previously presented) A bed rail construction as defined in claim 22 wherein said plug (85) has a barb (146) adapted to retain said plug (85) to said side rail (10) when said downwardly facing tabs (144) of said ends of said at least one cross member (18) are interfitted into said plug (85).

24. (currently amended) A system for connecting a cross member (18) of a bed assembly to a side rail (10), said cross member having a molded end housing (76), a rail connector (82) affixed to said side rail and having a receptive fitting to receive said molded end housing (76), said molded end housing (76) being molded of a shape to be manually snapped onto said rail connector (82) causing deformation of the rail connector to be firmly affixed thereto ~~by the use of a user's hands only without the use of tools~~.

25. (previously presented) A system for connecting a cross member (18) of a bed assembly to a side rail as defined in claim 24 wherein said molded end housing (76) includes upwardly directed wedge shaped ends adapted to fit into said rail connector.

26. (previously presented) A system for connecting a cross member (18) of a bed assembly to a side rail as defined in claim 24 wherein said rail connector (82) includes flexible tabs (126) that interfit with said upwardly directed wedge shaped ends to retain said cross member (18) affixed to said side rail.

27. (previously presented) A system for connecting a cross member (18) of a bed assembly to a side rail (10) as defined in claim 24 wherein said side rail (10) has an opening and said rail connector has an opening (87) adapted to be aligned with said opening in said side rail (10), said system further includes a flexible plug (85) adapted to be inserted through both said opening in said rail connector (87) and said opening in said side rail (10), and wherein said molded end housing (76) has a downwardly facing tab (144) adapted to enter said flexible plug (85) to retain said plug in said position inserted through both said opening said rail connector (87) and said opening in said side rail (10).

28. (previously presented) A system for connecting a cross member (18) of a bed assembly to a side rail (10) as defined in claim 27 wherein said plug (85) further comprises a lip (146) extending outwardly therefrom and adapted to lock with said opening (87) in said side rail (10) to affix said plug (85) in position inserted through both said opening said rail connector (87) and said opening in said side rail.

29. (previously presented) A system for connecting a cross member (18) of a bed assembly to a side rail (10) as defined in claim 24 wherein said rail connector (82) is affixed to said side rail by means of metal clips (136).

30. (previously presented) A system for connecting a cross member (18) of a bed assembly to a side rail (10) as defined in claim 24 wherein said side rail (10) is a wooden side rail (122) and said rail connector (82) is affixed to affixed to said side rail (10) by means of screws (125).

Claims 31-39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) A system for connecting a cross member (18) of a bed assembly to a side rail (10), said cross member (18) having outer ends (76), a rail connector (82) affixed to said side rail (10) and having a receptive fitting to receive said outer end (76) of said cross member(18), said outer end (76) being configured to be manually snapped into said rail connector (82) by deforming the rail connector (82) to be firmly affixed thereto.

41. (previously presented)A system as defined in claim 40 wherein said outer ends (76) of said cross member (18) comprise molded ends.

42. (previously presented)The system as defined in claim 40 wherein said side rail is a wooden side rail (202) and said rail connector (248) is affixed to said side rail by means of a stamped metal support bracket (234) that is affixed to said side rail (10).

43. (previously presented)The system as defined in claim 42 wherein said stamped metal support bracket (234) has a plurality of screw holes (236) and is affixed to said wooden side rail (202) by wood screws (238) passing through said screw holes (236).

44. (previously presented)The system as defined in claim 42 wherein said stamped metal support bracket (262) is an elongated support adapted to have a plurality of rail connector (248) mounted along the linear length of said side rail (202).

45. (previously presented)The system as defined in claim 40 wherein said side rail is a wooden side rail (202) and said rail connector (248) is affixed to said side rail (202) by means of an angle iron bracket (264) having a vertical leg (266) and a horizontal leg (268).

46. (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 43 wherein said vertical leg (266) of said angle iron bracket (264) is affixed to said side rail (202) and said rail connector (248) is affixed to said horizontal leg (268) of said angle iron.

47. (previously presented) The system as defined in claim 46 wherein said side rail is a wooden side rail (202) and said vertical leg (266) has a plurality of screw holes (236) and said angle iron bracket (266) is affixed to said wooden side rail (202) by wood screws passing through said screw holes (236).

48. (previously presented) The system as defined in claim 46 wherein said angle iron bracket is an elongated angle iron bracket (270) adapted to have a plurality of rail connectors (248) mounted along the linear length of said side rail (202).

49. (previously presented) The system as defined in claim 40 wherein said side rail is a wooden side rail (202) and said rail connector is affixed to said side rail by means of an extruded metal bracket (272) that is affixed to said side rail (202).

50. (previously presented) The system of claim 49 wherein said extruded metal bracket (272) has a vertical body having a plurality of screw holes (236) and a horizontal ledge (240) extending therefrom and wherein said extruded metal bracket (272) is affixed to said wooden side rail (202) by wood screws passing through said screw holes (236) and said rail connector (248) is affixed to said horizontal ledge (240) of said extruded metal bracket (272).

51. (previously presented) The system as defined in claim 50 wherein said extruded metal bracket is an elongated extruded metal bracket (273) adapted to have a plurality of rail connectors (248) mounted along the linear length of said elongated extruded metal bracket (273).

52. (currently amended) A system for connecting a cross member of a bed assembly to a side rail, said cross member having an outer end (232), a folded metal bracket (310) affixed to said side rail (202), said folded metal bracket (310) having a receptive fitting to receive said outer end (232), said outer end (232) being configured to be manually snapped into said folded metal bracket (310) by deforming the folded metal bracket to be firmly affixed thereto.

53. (previously presented) The system of claim 52 wherein said receptive fitting comprises a bottom surface (318) and a pair of side flanges (322), each of said side flanges (322) having an inwardly and downwardly directed tab (324), said tabs (324) adapted to overlie and snap fit against said outer end (232) when said outer end (232) is affixed to said folded metal bracket (310).

54. (previously presented) The system of claim 53 wherein said side rail is a wooden side rail (202) and said folded metal bracket (310) has a vertical body (314) having a plurality of screw holes (312) and wherein said folded metal bracket (310) is affixed to said side rail (202) by means of screws (316) passing through said screw holes (312).

55. (previously presented) The system as defined in claim 54 wherein said folded metal bracket is an elongated folded metal bracket (326) adapted to have a receptive fittings formed along the linear length of said elongated folded metal bracket (326).

Claims 56-58. (canceled)